

**From:** Stephen Hopkins  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 7:04pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

Most individuals and companies affiliated with computer software products are very excited about the recent antitrust settlement between Microsoft Corp. and the U.S. Justice Department. The lawsuit has significantly dampened technological innovation as well as investment. Continuing the lawsuit would only make matters worse; therefore, the settlement should be accepted and finalized as soon as possible as it is fair and reasonable.

For example, it has agreed to disclose its internal interfaces for Windows to its competitors. It also agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. Last, and perhaps most important, Microsoft has to design future versions of Windows to provide a mechanism to make it easy for computer makers, consumers and software developers to promote non-Microsoft software within Windows.

I sincerely hope the settlement is allowed to take hold as soon as the public comment period concludes and that those who may attempt to derail it are not successful in their attempts.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hopkins  
President

CC: Representative Richard Armey

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